Î ,	Case 8:14-cv-00258-DOC-RNB Document	1 Filed 02/21/14 Page 1 of 14 Page ID #
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1 2 3 4 5	Amy L. Bennecoff (275805) Kimmel & Silverman, P.C. 30 East Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 Telephone: 215-540-8888 Facsimile: 215-540-8817 abennecoff@creditlaw.com Attorney for Plaintiff	2014 FEB 21 AM II: 49 CLETTRACE THE SANTA ANA
7	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
8	FOR THE CENTRAL DI	STRICT COURT STRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10	ATIKE KING,	Case No.: SACV14-00258 DOC (RNBx)
12	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES 1. VIOLATION OF THE FAIR
13	v.)	DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, 15 U.S.C. §1692 ET. SEQ.;
14	CMRE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.)	2. VIOLATION OF THE
15 16	Defendant.	TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 47 U.S.C. §227 ET. SEQ.
17		3. VIOLATION OF THE
18		ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT,
19 20		CAL. CIV. CODE §1788 ET. SEQ.
21		JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
22	COMP	LAINT
23 24	ATIKE KING ("Plaintiff"), by he	er attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN,
25	P.C., alleges the following against (CMRE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
26	("Defendant"):	
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INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq. ("TCPA,") and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, cal. Civ. Code §1788, et. seq. ("RFDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- 3. Defendant conducts business in the State of California and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b)(1) and (b)(2).

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Huntington Beach, California.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C.

§1692a(3) and is a "debtor" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(h).

- 7. Defendant is a corporation specializing in debt collection with its principal place of business located at 3075 E. Imperial Hwy. #200, Brea, California 92821.
- 8. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and RFDCPA, Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(c).
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff as the term is defined by the FDCPA at 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and the RFDCPA at Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(f).
- 11. The alleged debt originated from a medical bill from Huntington Beach Hospital, and arose out of transactions which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 12. Throughout March 2013, Defendant's representatives placed repeated harassing debt collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
 - 13. Defendant's harassing debt collection calls derived from number

(714) 528-3200. The undersigned has confirmed that these numbers belong to Defendant.

- 14. Defendant regularly called Plaintiff, even after Plaintiff indicated she was disputing the alleged debt.
- 15. Once told that the debt was disputed, there was no purpose for subsequent calls by Defendant except for the purposes of harassment.
- 16. Defendant also immediately called Plaintiff back after she discontinued the call by hanging up the phone.
- 17. Once Plaintiff discontinued the call, there was no purpose for an immediate return call by Defendant except for the purposes of harassment.
- 18. Defendant also contacted Plaintiff's ex-husband and informed him of the alleged debt.
- 19. Upon information and belief, many calls were placed to Plaintiff's cellular phone by a computer autodialer, and the use of a pre-recorded or artificial voice was often employed.
- 20. Defendant's telephone calls were not for "emergency purposes," as that terms is referenced in 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A).
- 21. Finally, on March 13, 2013, Defendant sent a writing to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt. The writing failed to sufficiently set forth her rights pursuant to the FDCPA.

- 22. Further, the writing included attempts to collect additional amounts, including interest.
- 23. Defendant's actions as described herein were made with the intent to harass, deceive and coerce payment from Plaintiff.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692c(b) OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 24. Section 1692c(b) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from communicating, in connection with the collection of any debt, with any person other than the consumer, his attorney, a consumer reporting agency if otherwise permitted by law, the creditor, the attorney of the creditor, or the attorney of the debt collector.
- 25. Defendant violated § 1692c(b) of the FDCPA when it communicated with Plaintiff's ex-husband regarding Plaintiff's alleged debt.

COUNT II DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692d OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

26. Section 1692d of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress or abuse any person, in connection with the collection of a debt.

27. Defendant violated § 1692d of the FDCPA when it called Plaintiff repeatedly and continuously, when it continued to call Plaintiff even after she informed Defendant that she disputed the alleged debt and when it engaged in other harassing or abusive conduct.

COUNT III DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692d(5) OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 28. Section 1692d(5) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from causing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number..
- 29. Defendant violated § 1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it caused Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly and continuously with the intent to harass or annoy Plaintiff, including immediately calling Plaintiff back after Plaintiff had terminated the communication by hanging the phone.

COUNT IV DEFENDANT VIOLATED §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), and 1692e(10) OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

30. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the

collection of any debt.

- 31. Section 1692e(2)(A) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from falsely representing the character, amount or legal status of any debt.
- 32. Section 1692e(10) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from using any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 33. Defendant violated §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA when it represented that it could collect interest that was not agreed to and when it made other deceptive, false and misleading representations.

COUNT V DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692f OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 34. Section 1692f of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from using unfair or unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 35. Defendant violated § 1692f of the FDCPA when it called Plaintiff repeatedly and continuously, when it continued to call Plaintiff even after she informed the Defendant she disputed the debt, when it failed to provide Plaintiff with written information sufficiently setting forth her rights pursuant to the FDCPA, attempted to collect additional charges, including interest, and when it engaged in other unfair conduct.

COUNT VI DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692f(1) OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 36. Section 1692f(1) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from collecting any amount (including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- 37. Defendant violated § 1692f(1) of the FDCPA when it attempted to collect additional charges, including interest.

COUNT VI DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 1692g(a) OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 38. Section 1692g(a) of the FDCPA states that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of a debt, a debt collector shall send the consumer a written notice containing the amount of the debt, the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, the manner in which to dispute the debt, and that if the debt is disputed, that the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt, and will provide information to Plaintiff on how to dispute the debt.
 - 39. Defendant violated § 1692g(a) of the FDCPA when it failed to

provide written notification or any information in writing to Plaintiff in regards to how to dispute the debt or obtain verification of the debt, in violation of the FDCPA.

COUNT VII DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- 40. Section 227(b)(3)(A) of the TCPA authorizes a private cause of action for a person or entity to bring in an appropriate court of that state "an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation."
- 41. Section 227(b)(3)(B), of the Act authorizes a private cause of action for a person or entity to bring in an appropriate court of that state "an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater."
- 42. Defendant repeatedly placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff without Plaintiff's consent.
- 43. The Act also authorizes the Court, in its discretion, to award up to three (3) times the actual damages sustained for violations.
- 44. Here, Defendant repeatedly and regularly placed non-emergency, automated calls to Plaintiff using a pre-recorded or artificial voice.

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- 45. Defendant did not have Plaintiff's express consent prior to contacting her using an automatic telephone dialing system or pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- Defendant's conduct violated §227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by 46. making any call using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial prerecorded voice to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service.

COUNT VIII DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- Section 1788.17 of the California Civil Code mandates that every debt 47. collector attempting to collect a consumer debt shall comply with § 1692b through § 1692j of the FDCPA.
- Defendant violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17, when it violated the 48. FDCPA for the reasons set forth in this Complaint.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ATIKE KING, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- Actual Damages:
- b. Statutory damages:
- Reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, ATIKE KING, demands a jury trial

in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DATED: 2/17/2014 KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

By: Amy Bennec

Kimmel & Silverman P.C 30 East Builer Pike

Ambler, PA 19002

Telephone: (215) 540-8888 Facsimile (215) 540-8817

Email: abennecoff@creditlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case ha Magistrate Judge is	s been assigned to D Robert I	•	Cormac J. Ca	arney	_ and the assigned
The	e case number on all	documents filed w	ith the Court shou	ld read as follo	ws:
	S.	ACV14-00258 I	OOC (RNBx)		
Pursuant to California, the Magi	General Order 05-07 istrate Judge has bee				District of
All discovery	y related motions sh	ould be noticed on	the calendar of the	e Magistrate Ju	dge.
			Clerk, U. S. D	istrict Court	
February			By <u>Nancy Bo</u> Deputy Cl		
		NOTICE TO C	OUNSEL	 	
A copy of this notice filed, a copy of this n			complaint on all de	fendants (if a re	emoval action is
Subsequent docum	ents must be filed a	t the following loc	ation:		
Western Divis 312 N. Spring Los Angeles, 0	Street, G-8	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St Santa Ana, CA 9270		Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth S Riverside, CA	Street, Room 134
Failure to file at the	e proper location wi	ll result in your do	ocuments being re	turned to you.	

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I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) ATIKE KING		DEFENDANTS CMRE FINANCIAL SER	VICES, INC.		
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you a yourself, provide same.) AMY L. BENNECOFF, ESQ., KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.O. 30 East Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19003 (215)540-8888; abennecoff@creditlaw.com		Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)	III. CITIZENS	HIP OF PRINCIPAL PAR' in one box for plaintiff and o	TIES - For Diversity Case	es Only	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This S	PTI	DEF		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh of Parties in Item III)	ip Citizen of Anoth	er State	☐ 2 Incorporated and of Business in A	d Principal Place ☐ 5 ☐ 5 Inother State	
	Citizen or Subject	et of a Foreign Country 3	☐ 3 Foreign Nation	□6 □6	
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.) 1 Original Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Appellate Court State Court Proceeding State Court Proceeding State Court State Court Appellate Court State State Court State State Court State Stat					
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.P. 23: Yes No		ONEY DEMANDED IN C			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you				tatutes unless diversity.)	
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)					
□ 410 Antitrust □ 120 Marine □ 3 □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 130 Miller Act □ 3 □ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 3 □ 460 Deportation □ 150 Recovery of □ 3 □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt □ 151 Medicare Act □ 3 □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Veterans) □ 36 □ 810 Selective Service □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veterans's Benefits USC 3410 □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 36 □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 36 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions Repair Instrument Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 36 □ 34 □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 36 □ 891 Agricultural Act □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 36 □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 196 Franchise □ 36 □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 36 □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 220 Freedom of Info. Act □ 240 T	Injury 22 Personal Injury- Med Malpractice 25 Personal Injury- Product Liability 28 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability IMMIGRATION	□ 371 Truth in Lending □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 CIVIL RIGHTS □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/Accommodations □ 444 Welfare □ 445 American with Disabilities - Employment □ 446 American with Disabilities - Other □ 440 Other Civil Rights	□ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty □ 540 Mandamus/ Other □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition FORFEITURE / PENALTY □ 610 Agriculture □ 620 Other Food & Drug □ 625 Drug Related Seizure of	LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: SAC	CV14-00258 D	OC (RNB~)			

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

Case 8:14-cvcQQ258 DQCERNET Document 1 Filed 02/21/14 Page 14 of 14 Page ID #:18 CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: H If yes, list case number(s):	las this action been	previously filed in this court a	and dismissed, remanded or closed? ✓ No □ Yes	
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? VNo \(\subseteq \text{Yes} \)				
LI C.	Arise from the sar Call for determina For other reasons	ne or closely related transacti ition of the same or substantia would entail substantial dupli	ons, happenings, or events; or ally related or similar questions of law and fact; or ication of labor if heard by different judges; or t, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.	
IX. VENUE: (When completing the				
Note: In the control of the control	; California County its agencies or emp	outside of this District; State loyees is a named plaintiff. It	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. f this box is checked, go to item (b).	
County in this District:* Orange County			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
(b) List the County in this District; ☐ Check here if the government,	California County its agencies or empl	outside of this District; State oyees is a named defendant.	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
Orange County				
(c) List the County in this District; Note: In land condemnation c	California County of ases, use the locati	outside of this District; State i	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties				
Note: In land condemnation cases, us X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (se the location of the	e tract of land involved		
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The or other papers as required by law but is used by the Clerk of the C	ne CV-71 (JS-44) C v. This form, appro- ourt for the purpose	of statistics, venue and initial	nation centained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings e of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ing the eivil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)	
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	cial Security Cases			
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	Cause of Action	
861	НІА	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))		
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)		
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.		
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))		

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